MARRIAGE...

FOR BETTER? FOR WORSE?



Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

Hosea and Gomer

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the Lord." So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Hosea 1:2-3

THE MOST COMMON MARRIAGE MISCONCEPTION

"What I'm missing is better than what I have."

...She said, "I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink."

Hosea 2:5

Daughter named Lo-ruhamah – "unpitied or unloved by the true father."
Son named Lo-ammi – "no kin of mine, not related to me."

GOD'S RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL ADULTERY
1) Righteous anger

She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold... "Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens, and my new wine when it is ready. I will take back my wool and my linen, intended to cover her nakedness. So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands."

Hosea 2:8-10

2) Unfailing love

"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope."

Hosea 2:14-15

Hebrew *"Achor"* = *"Trouble"*

The Lord said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods..."

Hosea 3:1

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR THE BETRAYED SPOUSE

FORGIVE AND LOVE AS YOU'VE BEEN FORGIVEN AND LOVED.